

Application No. 09/037,674

REMARKS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Action dated May 10, 2004. Claims 25 and 31 have been amended without intending to abandon or to dedicate to the public any patentable subject matter. Claims 16-24 were previously withdrawn. Accordingly, Claims 25-33 are now pending. As set out more fully below, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 25-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano (JP6-291202) in view of Okumura et al. (US Patent No. 4,984,055).

The Office Action states that Nakano teaches a passivation layer 15 covering top surfaces of the insulating film 12 and the wirings 13. However, Nakano does not teach a passivation film including a first insulation film that is a single modified Spin-in-Glass (SOG) film containing boron impurity. Nakano teaches an SOG film 15 containing boron and phosphorus (Fig. 2) and double-layered structure of SOG films 15 and 16 one film 15 containing boron and phosphorus and another film 16 not containing boron and phosphorus (Fig. 1).

The Office Action states that the external bonding wires must be formed on (above) the passivation film, and if external wirings are not present in the complete semiconductor device, the product can be rendered to be inoperative. However, although a portion of bonding wires would be located above the passivation film, the bonding wires are not located on the passivation film. Since the bonding wires connect bonding pads and lead frames while describing a parabola, in this state, the bonding wires are not located on the passivation film although they are located above the passivation film. It is obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art that bonding wires are not located on the passivation film even if they are part of the complete semiconductor device. Accordingly, we believe that the claimed limitation that no wiring is present on the passivation film is not directed to an intermediate product.

Accordingly, Claims 25-33 are not obvious in view of the cited references, and the rejections of these references should be reconsidered and withdrawn. The application appearing to be in form

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for allowance, early notification of same is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if doing so would expedite the resolution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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